

**Cooperative Extension Regional Scan for ECOP
Northeast Extension Directors (NEED)
March 2013**

Critical Issues

- “Building a Sustainable Funding Model for Cooperative Extension” was the theme for the March 18, 2013 NEED Winter Meeting held in conjunction with the National Extension Directors and Administrators Meeting. The evidence is overwhelming that the current funding model will not sustain Extension within the Northeast Region. Directors examined a number of options after all reading *The Business Model Innovative Factory: How to Stay Relevant When the World is Changing* by Saul Kaplan. How can Cooperative Extension, as a System, address this challenge?
- What started as a NE states response to the Affordable Care Act has become a multi-state, multi-region Extension team focused on Health Insurance Literacy. The team is currently working together to fill a demand for understanding, learning, and establishing a body of knowledge and educational programming related to health reform and specifically health insurance literacy. Not only will our programming people respond knowledgeably, but also it will position Extension and the land-grant system as a leader in addressing this compelling public policy issue. The team will be presenting a pre-conference workshop at the April Extension Priester Health Conference and inviting colleagues to be a part of the initiative.
- Extreme weather patterns have caused much damage over the past two years from flooding in southern Vermont to Hurricane Sandy’s devastation in several Northeast states. How can the land-grant system help to mitigate these events when already fiscally challenged?

Other Items:

- NEED and NERA approved the first joint mini planning grants focused on Food Systems in the Northeast with a goal of more success in the competitive grant arena.
- Twelve of the sixteen Northeast institutions now have development officers for Extension. They are meeting together on an as needed basis with the next meeting on March 27, 2013.
- Increased communication within the region through development of Program Leaders Network is leading to improved communication/collaboration across institutional/state lines.

Personnel Changes

NEED has welcomed Mike O’Neill, as Associate Dean and Associate Director, at the University of Connecticut. He began the position November 2012.

Future Meeting Dates

July 7-9, 2013 Joint Northeast Regional Meeting, Ithaca, New York
(Note: the NE will plan to meet jointly with the North Central Region in 2014; interest has been expressed in doing joint meetings with other regions every other year)
NEED meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. ET